

life-and-death stories about how tobacco has impacted their lives, how they are crying out for us in the United States Congress to do our job. I hope that we in this body will listen to the children and not render to the children of America a death notice as they move into the 21st century.

I hope that we will listen; I hope that we will act. We will hear from the children here in the United States Congress on June 24. More tobacco reform is needed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will again remind Members that references to the other body that are critical in nature are not within the bounds and Rules of the House, and upon any further references, the Members will be interrupted.

EDUCATION SAVINGS ACT

(Mr. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the Education Savings Act for public and private schools.

Last year we passed the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 giving families the first tax cut in 16 years and making college more affordable by establishing education savings accounts.

Today, I will vote to give parents even more control over their children's future. This bill gives tax incentives for parents to save money for their children's K-through-12 education. It gives control to the parents.

I support this bill because it allows them to use their own personal money, their after-tax dollars, not the government's money, to give their children the best education possible that they can achieve. Nebraska families, families all across America, deserve an opportunity to save money tax-free for K-through-12 education. Parents, not the government, should decide how to spend their money on their children's education.

Let us stand today with the children, let us stand today with the parents, let us stand today for education in America. Support the Education Savings Act.

REPUBLICANS: THE PARTY OF GESTURE

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, George Will, the eminent editorialist here in Washington D.C., was in Seattle recently, and he said that the majority party in the House of Representatives was tearing themselves apart be-

cause they could not deal with substance, they had become the party of gesture.

Now, yesterday was the great day of gesture. The first gesture was, let us tear the Tax Code out by its roots. That was irresponsible. That was followed by a cynical gesture. That is, they could not pass even a commission on campaign reform.

Now, there is some question about whether tobacco is dead. In my view, tobacco is not dead. We will see a cynical gesture out of the Speaker's office late in this session bringing to the floor a bill that says, "Kids, you shouldn't smoke," and then there will be a lot of beating of chests and saying, we passed a bill against tobacco.

The fact is that the money in this place has to be collected before even that cynical gesture will be brought to the floor. We need serious campaign reform. The Speaker ought to bring Shays-Meehan to the floor immediately.

ACHIEVING DREAMS THROUGH EDUCATION

(Mr. SUNUNU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a very special group of high school students and their teachers taking part in the Capitol Hill robotics competition today in the Rayburn Office Building, a contest that is unlike any other that I know.

This competition brings together students with high technology companies, universities, research laboratories and designers to compete head to head. They design machines that go head to head in competition in front of fans and a worldwide television audience.

In forming this partnership, students are introduced to the concepts of design, mechanics, engineering and materials, and they are encouraged to push further into the worlds of science, technology, mathematics and the opportunities they create.

This unique challenge is the brainchild of the Foundation for the Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology First, headed by Mr. Dean Kamen of Manchester, New Hampshire, a city I am proud to represent. The contest has grown from very humble beginnings in a high school gymnasium.

This year, however, the finals will be at Epcot Center, a national presentation in front of thousands of high school fans that understand the value of learning science and technology.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all of those that have worked to make this initiative a success, inspiring students and teaching them to achieve their dreams through education.

REJECT THE PRIVATE SCHOOL VOUCHER BILL

(Mr. ETHERIDGE asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on this House to reject the Coverdell voucher bill.

As a former State superintendent in North Carolina's public schools, I know that using taxpayer money to finance private school tuition will not improve education in this country. Taking the taxpayers' money, more than \$2 billion, to subsidize private schools at the expense of our neighborhood public schools is wrong.

Instead of this private school voucher bill, I call on this Congress to pass legislation to address the school construction crisis in this country. Our classrooms are bursting at the seams, and we know that the school age population is projected to soar in the next decade. This Congress should do its part to help our States and localities build schools for our children.

I have introduced legislation, H.R. 3652, that will take the revenue from the Coverdell voucher bill and use that school construction money as bonds to help growing communities across this country to meet their needs.

I urge my colleagues to reject this bill and build schools.

SUPPORT THE CHILD CUSTODY PROTECTION ACT

(Mr. COBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COBURN. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to support H.R. 3682, the Child Custody Protection Act.

I am a practicing physician. I deliver babies, and what I would want Members of this body and the American public to know is, do you think it is right for a 12-year-old child or a 13-year-old child to be taken across a State line to have an abortion performed when they are incapable of making that decision themselves and without the knowledge of the parents? That is what this bill is all about.

If, in fact, a child is transported across a State line for an abortion to violate the laws of the State in which they reside, then, in fact, it would be a Federal offense.

The real issue is whether or not parents ought to be involved in the reproductive health of their children.

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Whether they ought to know, whether they ought to be given information about whether or not their child is seeking help in the midst of a difficulty, some would have us say that the government is the answer to that. I believe the parents are the answer to that. And I believe that we should pass the Child Custody Protection Law.

CONSPIRATORIAL CONGRESS

(Mr. HINCHEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1